



KENTUCKY EXCELLENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

KY EXCEL is a voluntary program open to any individual, organization, community or business that wishes to improve and protect Kentucky's environment in ways that extend beyond Kentucky's environmental requirements.

The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection is pleased to announce its new voluntary environmental leadership program, KY EXCEL. This program offers unique opportunities for public, corporate, and private sectors to improve Kentucky's diverse and wonderful environment. We invite your participation! KY EXCEL:

- Provides multiple membership levels that are open to any individual, organization, community or business that wishes to voluntarily contribute to Kentucky's environmental excellence;
- Publicly recognizes environmental stewardship and superior environmental performance;
- Offers incentives to encourage participation and growth within the program; and
- Aligns with other leadership programs.

Membership Levels – Four membership levels are available to program participants. The Advocate membership was established for entities that are not permitted or regulated by the Department for Environmental Protection. Facilities that are permitted or regulated by the department may choose from the Partner, Leader or Master membership level.

Voluntary Environmental Projects – Completion of approved voluntary projects is a key component of KY EXCEL membership. The variety of projects that can be performed is extensive and members are encouraged to look for projects within their organization as well as their communities. Acceptable voluntary projects can include any activity that will benefit Kentucky's environment provided that the activity is not a legal requirement for the applicant.

Environmental Planning and Assessments – All Partner, Leader and Master members must document and assess their environmental processes. This component is important for KY EXCEL members because it establishes a sustainable process that will allow the member to continue to improve its environmental performance.

Annual Reports – All KY EXCEL members will prepare a short annual report that summarizes the year's project achievements. Information from the annual reports will be used to recognize the member's accomplishments and show the benefits the projects provide to Kentucky.

Incentives – KY EXCEL offers incentives to facilitate program participation, recognize member achievements, and encourage continual improvement. Program incentives include public recognition, networking opportunities, and enhanced agency services. Greater incentives are provided to membership levels with greater commitments.

KY EXCEL Membership Levels

Advocate

- Commit to one voluntary project each year
- Prepare an annual report

Partner

- Commit to one voluntary project each year
- Develop an environmental management plan
- Conduct a self-assessment
- Prepare an annual report

Leader

- Commit to three voluntary projects each year
- Implement an environmental management plan
- Conduct a self-assessment
- Prepare an annual report

Master

- Commit to four voluntary projects each year
- Demonstrate past environmental achievement
- Implement an environmental management plan
- Conduct a third-party assessment
- Participate in at least one outreach or educational activity
- Agree to mentor another member
- Prepare an annual report

Are you interested in joining KY EXCEL or have additional questions?

Call the Kentucky Division of Compliance Assistance at 1-800-926-8111 or visit www.dca.ky.gov/KYEXCEL for more information.

